

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for containing a plant comprising:
  - a. a sleeve;
  - b. a means for securing the sleeve to a vessel; and
  - c. a means for applying ornamentation to the sleeve.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for securing is a fastener, and the means for applying ornamentation is a removable film.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vessel is a pot for containing soil and a plant.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vessel is a saucer for containing water.
5. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a top portion for at least partially covering a top of the saucer; and a bottom portion for at least partially covering a bottom of the saucer.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a film for carrying the ornamentation.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a film for carrying indicia which can be easily removed from the sleeve.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fastener for fastening a first end of the sleeve to a second end of the sleeve.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the fastener includes at least one of the following: a zipper, button, hook, hook-and-loop fastener, snap, sewn seam, buckle, and clasp.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the indicia conveys a message for one of the following special days: a holiday, a birthday, a wedding, an anniversary, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Boss's Day, and Secretary's Day.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the indicia convey a brand message, or an advertising message.

12. A kit for decorating a cylindrical device comprising:

- a. a piece of elastic material having a left end and a right end and a top end and a bottom end;
- b. a fastener connecting the right end of the material to the left end;
- 5 c. a film bearing indicia or graphics having an attachment mechanism on one surface for attachment to the material; and
- d. at least one decoration for attachment to the material.

13. The kit of claim 12, wherein the fastener includes a sewn seam connecting the right end to the left end.

14. A method of making a sleeve for a tubular object comprising the steps of:

- a. selecting a stretchable fabric having a first side and second side;
- b. cutting the fabric to the appropriate size for the tubular object;
- c. attaching a fabric first side to a fabric second side;
- 5 d. selecting an appropriate text message;
- e. applying the message to the fabric;
- f. decorating the fabric with appropriate decorations;
- g. applying the sleeve to the tubular object.

15. The kit of claim 12, further comprising a bottom attached to the tubular object

16. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is stretchable in a first direction.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is stretchable in a second and third direction.
18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is constructed of a stretchable mood fabric, or polyurethane coated plastic.
19. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the indicia display a text message that relates to a holiday.
20. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the indicia relate to a special event.
21. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the indicia convey a text message that relates to a specific individual.
22. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the indicia convey a text message that identifies a company.
23. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ornamentation is a graphic that relates to a company.
24. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a graphic, which includes a corporate logo.
25. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ornamentation includes a holiday reference.
26. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ornamentation includes a graphic that is a character.
27. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ornamentation includes a photo.

28. An apparatus comprising: a clay vessel; a sleeve having an outer surface and constructed of material that stretches laterally and longitudinally over the clay vessel; a fastener connected to the sleeve; and a removable film connected to the outer surface of the sleeve.
29. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means of applying includes at least one of: static adhesion, glue, pin, button, snap, and hook and loop fastener.
30. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ornamentation includes at least one of: a bead, a dangling decoration, silk-screened printing, a hologram, a button, graphics, stickers and text.
31. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vessel is made of clay and the sleeve is air permeable to provide breathability, for healthier soil and plant life in the vessel.
32. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve has a conformed fit around the sidewalls of the vessel.
33. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is elastic to facilitate stretchability enabling insertion of the vessel into the sleeve.
34. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of sliding of the sleeve around the vessel.
35. A cover sleeve for a pot having a top lying in a first horizontal plane, a bottom lying in a second horizontal plane, a sidewall extending between said top and said bottom, an upper corner at the interface of said top and said sidewall, and a lower corner at the interface of said bottom and said sidewall, said sleeve extending along said sidewall and around said upper and lower corners and having a flat horizontal upper portion lying in said first horizontal plane, a flat horizontal lower portion lying in said second horizontal plane and an indicia applied to the sleeve.

36. The invention according to claim 33 wherein said upper portion of said sleeve extends horizontally inwardly along said first horizontal plane to a first inner lip coplanar with said upper corner along said first horizontal plane, said lower portion of said sleeve extends horizontally inwardly along said second horizontal plane to a second inner lip  
5 coplanar with said lower corner along said second horizontal plane and parallel to said upper portion.
37. The invention according to claim 34 wherein said first inner lip defines a first central opening, and said second inner lip defines a second central opening coaxially aligned with and of smaller diameter than said first central opening.
38. The invention according to claim 35 wherein said upper portion of said sleeve terminates in said first horizontal plane.
39. The invention according to claim 34 comprising a tab attached to said sleeve for receiving a mounting arm for suspending said pot and sleeve therefrom.
40. The invention according to claim 37 wherein said tab is stitched to said sleeve and provides a loop for receiving said arm.
41. The invention according to claim 33 wherein said pot has an outer upper band portion extending downwardly from said upper corner and then inwardly at a downwardly-facing shoulder, and comprising a suspension hoop engaging the underside of said shoulder to suspend said therefrom.
42. The invention according to claim 39 comprising a plurality of stringers attached to said hoop and extending upwardly for mounting to a hook.
43. The invention according to claim 40 wherein said hoop and portion of said stringers are trapped between said pot and said sleeve, and wherein said hoop is held in place against said underside of said shoulder by said sleeve, including when unmounted to said hook.

44. The invention according to claim 33 comprising a plurality of stringers extending along said sidewall of said pot and around said bottom of said pot and having upper portions extending upwardly for mounting to a hook, wherein said stringers are trapped between said pot and said sleeve and are held in place by conformance of said sleeve to said pot.

45. The invention according to claim 33 comprising a plurality of stringers attached to said upper portion of said sleeve and extending upwardly therefrom for mounting to a hook.

46. The invention according to claim 43 wherein said upper portion of said sleeve has a plurality of apertures therethrough at which said stringers are respectively attached.

47. The invention according to claim 33 comprising in combination a second pot having a top, bottom, a sidewall extending between said top of said second pot and said bottom of said second pot, and a lower corner at the interface of said bottom of said second pot and said sidewall of said second pot, the diameter of said bottom of said second pot being less than the  
5 diameter of said top of said first pot, said sleeve extending around said top of said second pot then downwardly along said sidewall of said first pot then around said lower corner of said first pot, said sleeve holding said pots together, with said bottom of said second pot nested in said top of said first pot.

48. The invention according to claim 45 wherein said sidewall of said first pot has an annular shoulder therein, said sidewall of said second pot has an annular shoulder therein, said top of said first pot faces said shoulder in said sidewall of said second pot, said lower corner of said second pot faces said shoulder in said sidewall of said first pot.

49. The invention according to claim 46 wherein said shoulder in said sidewall of said second pot rests on said top of said first pot.

50. The invention according to claim 46 wherein said lower corner of said second pot rests on said shoulder in said sidewall of said first pot.

51. The invention according to claim 46 wherein the distance between said top of said first pot and said shoulder in said sidewall of said first pot is substantially equal to the distance between said shoulder in said sidewall of said second pot and said bottom of said second pot, and said shoulder in said sidewall of said second pot rests on said top of said first pot, and said lower corner of said second pot rests on said shoulder in said sidewall of said first pot.

52. The invention according to claim 46 wherein the diameter of said annular shoulder in said sidewall of said first pot is substantially equal to the diameter of said shoulder in said sidewall of said second pot.

53. The invention according to claim 33 comprising in combination a second pot having a top, a bottom, a sidewall extending between said top of said second pot and said bottom of said second pot, an upper corner at the interface of said top of said second pot and said sidewall of said second pot, and a lower corner at the interface of said bottom of said second pot and said sidewall of said second pot, said sleeve holding said pots together in inverted relation with said bottom of said first pot against said bottom of said second pot and with said sidewall of said first pot extending downwardly from said upper corner of said first pot to said lower corner of said first pot and with said sidewall of said second pot extending downwardly from said lower corner of said second pot to said upper corner of said second pot.

54. The invention according to claim 51 comprising in combination a third pot having a top, a bottom, a sidewall extending between said top of said third pot and said bottom of said third pot, an upper corner at the interface of said top of said third pot and said sidewall of said third pot, and a lower corner at the interface of said bottom of said third pot and said sidewall of said third pot, said sleeve holding said first, second and third pots together, with said top of said second pot against said bottom of said third pot.



55. The invention according to claim 52 wherein said sleeve extends around said upper corner of said first pot then downwardly along said sidewall of said first pot then around said upper corner of said third pot then downwardly along said sidewall of said third pot then around said lower corner of said third pot.
56. The invention according to claim 51 wherein said bottom of said first pot and said bottom of said second pot have aligned openings therein, said first pot is air impermeable, and said second pot and said sleeve are air permeable.
57. The invention according to claim 33 wherein said sleeve holds pieces of said pot in assembled condition in the event of breakage, and comprising in combination a repair method comprising pulling a portion of said sleeve away from said pot to allow access to cracks in said pot, repairing said cracks, releasing the pulled-away portion of said sleeve to  
5 return to engagement against said pot.
58. The invention according to claim 55 comprising repairing said damaged pot, with said sleeve peeled away, by applying glue to said cracks.
59. The invention according to claim 33 wherein said pot has a hoop direction along the circumference thereof, and an axial direction along the height thereof between said top and said bottom, and said sleeve has a pair of axial edges extending along said axial direction and joined together along said sidewall of said pot.
60. The invention according to claim 57 wherein said axial edges of said sleeve are stitched together.
61. The invention according to claim 57 wherein said axial edges are releasably attached to each other.
62. The invention according to claim 57 wherein said axial edges of said sleeve are attached to each other by a zipper.
63. The invention according to claim 57 wherein said axial edges of said sleeve are attached to each other by a hook and loop fastener.



64. The invention according to claim 33 comprising a liner suspended in said pot by said sleeve.
65. The invention according to claim 62 wherein said liner has an upper circumferential reach wedged between said sleeve and said upper corner of said pot to suspend said liner in said pot.
66. The invention according to claim 62 wherein said upper reach of said liner is attached to said upper portion of said sleeve.
67. The invention according to claim 64 comprising a clip attached to said upper portion of said sleeve and suspending said liner therefrom.
68. The invention according to claim 65 wherein said slip is attached to the underside of said upper portion of said sleeve.
69. The invention according to claim 33 wherein said upper portion of said sleeve extends inwardly to an inner lip, and comprising a circumferential rim at said inner lip and having overlapping ends permitting expansion and contraction of said rim by sliding said ends circumferentially along each other, such that the diameter of said rim may be expanded  
5 to permit insertion of said pot into said sleeve, whereafter the diameter of said rim may be reduced to facilitate conforming fit of said sleeve around said pot including conformance of said upper portion of said sleeve extending around said upper corner of said pot and then inwardly to a smaller diameter at said inner lip.
70. The invention according to claim 67 wherein said sleeve had a folded-back portion extending outwardly from said inner lip and defining a circumferential channel bounded by said upper portion and said inner lip and said folded-back portion, said rim being retained in said circumferential channel.

71. A method for laying out a two dimensional pattern for a cover sleeve for a pot having a top lying in a first horizontal plane, a bottom lying in a second horizontal plane, a sidewall extending between said top and said bottom, an upper corner at the interface of said top and said side sidewall, and a lower corner at the interface of said bottom and said sidewall, said  
5 pot having a hoop direction along the circumference thereof, and an axial direction along the height thereof between said top and said bottom and a means for applying graphics or text to the sleeve, said method comprising:

- selecting a fabric material stretchable along an X direction, which will become said hoop direction, and along a Y direction, which will become said axial direction;
- 10 determining a given amount of stretch along said X direction from a first X dimension  $X_1$  to a second X dimension  $X_2$ ;
- determining a given amount of stretch along said Y direction from a first Y dimension  $Y_1$  to a second Y dimension  $Y_2$ ;
- determining the ratio  $\frac{X_1}{X_2} = K_x$ ;
- 15 determining the ratio  $\frac{Y_1}{Y_2} = K_y$ ;
- determining the product  $K_x A$ , where A is the diameter of said top;
- determining the product  $K_x B$ , where B is the diameter of said bottom;
- determining the product  $K_y C$ , where C is said height;
- laying out the profile of said sleeve on a two-dimensional plane, said profile having a  
20 top width  $K_x A$ , a bottom width  $K_x B$ , and a height  $K_y C$ , said profile having tapered frustoconical right and left sidewalls;
- extending said profile by extending each of said right and left sidewalls upwardly to a width  $D_1$  therebetween;
- extending said profile by extending each of said right and left sidewalls downwardly  
25 to a width  $D_2$  therebetween;
- projecting said right and left sidewalls of said profile along respective right and left projection lines intersecting at a source point;
- determining a centerline extending from said source point and bisecting  $D_1$ ;

striking a first arc intersecting right and left end points of  $D_1$  from a focal point at  
30 said source point, said first arc having a radius  $S_1$ ;  
striking a second arc intersecting right and left end points of  $D_2$  from a focal point at  
said source point, said second arc having a radius  $S_2$ ;  
determining  $R = \frac{D_1}{2}$ ;  
determining a pattern angle  $\alpha = \frac{R}{S_1} 360^\circ$ ;  
35 determining said pattern by said first and second arcs subtended by angle  $\alpha$ .

72. The invention according to claim 69 comprising extending said profile by extending  
each of said right and left sidewalls frustoconically upwardly to said width  $D_1$  therebetween,  
where  $D_1$  is greater than  $K_x A$ , and extending said profile by extending each of said right and  
left sidewalls frustoconically downwardly to said width  $D_2$  therebetween, wherein  $D_2$  is less  
5 than  $K_x B$ .

73. The invention according to claim 70 comprising additionally extending said profile  
by extending  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  left-right.

74. A method for laying out a two dimensional pattern for a cover sleeve for a pot having a top lying in a first horizontal plane, a bottom lying in a second horizontal plane, a sidewall extending between said top and said bottom, an upper corner at the interface of said top and said sidewall, and a lower corner at the interface of said bottom and said sidewall, said pot  
5 having a hoop direction along the circumference thereof, and an axial direction along the height thereof between said top and said bottom and indicia for applying to the sleeve, said method comprising:

selecting a fabric material stretchable along an X direction, which will become said hoop direction, and along a Y direction, which will become said axial direction;

10 determining a given amount of stretch along said X direction from a first X dimension  $X_1$  to a second X dimension  $X_2$ ;

determining a given amount of stretch along said Y direction from a first Y dimension  $Y_1$  to a second Y dimension  $Y_2$ ;

determining the ratio  $\frac{X_1}{X_2} = K_x$

15 determining the ratio  $\frac{Y_1}{Y_2} = K_y$ ;

determining the product  $K_x A$ , where A is the diameter of said top;

determining the product  $K_x B$ , where B is the diameter of said bottom;

determining the product  $K_x C$ , where C is said height;

20 laying out the profile of said pot on a two dimensional plane, said profile having a top width A, a bottom width B, and a height C, said profile having tapered frustoconical right and left sidewalls;

projecting said right and left sidewalls of said profile along respective right and left projection lines intersecting at a source point;

determining a centerline extending from said source point and bisecting A;

25 striking a first arc intersecting right and left endpoints of A from a focal point at said source point, said first arc having a radius  $S_{p1}$ ;

striking a second arc intersecting right and left endpoints of B from a focal point at said source point, said second arc having a radius  $S_{p2}$ ;

determining  $R_p = \frac{A}{2}$ ;

30 determining a pot pattern angle  $\alpha_p = \frac{R_p}{S_{p1}} \times 360^\circ$ ;

laying out radial lines from said source point at angle  $\alpha_p$  subtending said first and second arcs;

determining the product  $K_x \alpha_p = \beta$ ;

determining the product  $K_y C = C_p$ ;

35 equally spacing  $C_p$  along said centerline between said first and second arcs;

contracting said first arc radially inwardly toward said source point to provide a contracted arc subtended by angle  $\beta$ ;

extending said second arc radially outwardly away from said source point to provide an extended arc subtended by angle  $\beta$ ;

40 determining the pattern of said sleeve by said contracted and extended arcs subtended by angle  $\beta$ .

75. The invention according to claim 72 wherein said contracted arc is parallel to said first arc, and said extended arc is parallel to said second arc.